

Claims:

There are no claim amendments. The listing of claims is provided for convenience.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Amended) A method to distribute policies, comprising:
 - determining if a policy template is present at an enforcement point in response to receiving an identification (ID) assigned to the policy template at the enforcement point, wherein the policy template includes a form of “if a first parameter then a second parameter”, the policy template and the parameters being transmitted separately to reduce use of communication resources by factoring the template and parameters to be used in the template and to permit different parameters to be transmitted from time to time to replace previous parameters in the policy template without the need of transmitting the entire policy template again to further reduce use of communication resources;
 - transmitting a query from the enforcement point to a repository, where policy templates are stored, in response to the policy template not being present at the enforcement point, wherein the query includes the ID assigned to the policy template;
 - receiving the policy template at the enforcement point, wherein the policy template is transmitted by the repository in response to the query; and
 - receiving a set of parameters to be used in the policy template at the enforcement point, wherein the set of parameters are transmitted separately from the policy template.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, binding the parameters to the policy template.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising implementing the policy associated with the policy template.

4. – 5. Canceled

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising applying asynchronous, out-of-band communication to transmit the query and any policy templates.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising compressing the policy template before transmitting to the enforcement point or any selected enforcement points.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising forming the policy template in a structured document.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising forming the policy template in a mark-up language.

10. (Previously Amended) A method to distribute policies, comprising:
defining a policy template associated with each policy, wherein the policy template includes a form of “if a first parameter then a second parameter”, the policy template and the parameters being transmitted separately to reduce use of communication resources by factoring the template and parameters to be used in the template and to permit different parameters to be transmitted from time to time to replace previous parameters in the policy template to change the policy associated with the policy template without the need of transmitting the entire policy or policy template again to further reduce use of communication resources;
assigning a unique identification (ID) to each policy template;
storing each policy template and assigned ID;
transmitting only the assigned ID to an enforcement point for each policy to be enforced by the enforcement point, wherein only the ID is transmitted to the

enforcement point rather than the policy template to substantially minimize use of data processing and communication resources;

determining if the policy template corresponding to any transmitted ID is present at the enforcement point;

transmitting a query to a policy template repository in response to the policy template corresponding to any transmitted ID not being present at the enforcement point, wherein the query includes the ID for any policy template not present at the enforcement point; and

transmitting the policy template from the policy template repository to the enforcement point in response to the query including the ID for the policy template.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising identifying at least one set of parameters to be associated with each policy template.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising transmitting the one set of parameters to be used in each associated policy template for enforcement to the enforcement point.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising binding the parameters to each associated template.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising implementing the policy associated with each policy template.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising storing each one of the at least one set of parameters by name and type.

16. – 17. Canceled.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising applying asynchronous, out-of-band communication to query the repository and transmit any templates.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising compressing each template before transmitting to the enforcement point.

20. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising compressing each template before transmitting to the enforcement point.

21. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising forming each policy template in a structured document.

22. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising forming each policy template in a mark-up language.

23. (Previously Amended) A system to distribute policies, comprising:
a policy administrator to define policy templates and to transmit one of an identification (ID) assigned to a policy template or the policy template associated with each policy to be enforced, wherein each policy template includes a form of "if a first parameter then a second parameter", each policy template and associated parameters being transmitted separately to reduce use of communication resources by factoring the template and associated parameters to be used in the template and to permit different parameters to be transmitted from time to time to replace previous parameters in the policy template without the need of transmitting the entire policy template again to further reduce use of communication resources;

an enforcement point to receive the ID assigned to the policy template or the policy template for each policy and to enforce each policy; and

a repository to store each policy template and assigned ID, wherein the enforcement point determines if the policy template is present at the enforcement point

in response to receiving the ID assigned to the policy template and transmits a query to the repository in response to the policy template not being present at the enforcement point.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein each policy administrator comprises a processor to transmit one of the ID assigned to the policy template or the policy template associated with each policy.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein each enforcement point comprises:
a processor to receive the IDs assigned to each policy template; and
a data source to store each policy template for enforcement and assigned ID, wherein the processor forms and transmits the query in response to each policy template corresponding to any transmitted IDs not present in the data source.

26. Canceled

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, further comprising a server to interface between each policy administrator, each enforcement point and the repository.

28. (Previously Amended) A system to distribute policies, comprising:
means for defining a policy template associated with each policy, wherein the policy template includes a form of "if a first parameter then a second parameter", the policy template and the parameters being transmitted separately to reduce use of communication resources by factoring the template and parameters to be used in the template and to permit different parameters to be transmitted from time to time to replace previous parameters in the policy template without the need of transmitting the entire policy template again to further reduce use of communication resources;
means for assigning a unique identification (ID) to each policy template;
a repository to store each policy template and assigned ID;

means for transmitting one of the assigned ID or the policy template for each policy to be enforced;

an enforcement point to receive the assigned ID or the policy template for each policy and to enforce each policy; and

means for transmitting a query to a policy template repository in response to each policy template corresponding to any transmitted IDs not being present at the enforcement point, wherein the query includes any transmitted IDs for any policy templates not present at the enforcement point.

29. (Original) The system of claim 28, further comprising means for binding parameters to each associated policy template for enforcement.

30. Canceled.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, further comprising means for transmitting any policy templates to the enforcement point in response to the query from the enforcement point including any IDs assigned to the policy templates.

32. (Original) The system of claim 31, further comprising means for applying asynchronous, out-of-band communication to transmit the query and any policy templates.

33. (Original) The system of claim 31, further comprising means for compressing each policy template before transmission to the enforcement point.

34. (Original) The system of claim 28, further comprising means for forming each policy template in a structured document.

35. (Previously Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method, comprising:

defining a policy template associated with each policy, wherein the policy template includes a form of "if a first parameter then a second parameter", the policy template and the parameters being transmitted separately to reduce use of communication resources by factoring the template and parameters to be used in the template and to permit different parameters to be transmitted from time to time to replace previous parameters in the policy template without the need of transmitting the entire policy template again to further reduce use of communication resources;

assigning a unique identification (ID) to each policy template;

transmitting one of the assigned ID or the policy template to an enforcement point for each policy to be enforced by the enforcement point; and

querying a policy template repository in response to each policy template corresponding to any transmitted IDs not being present at the enforcement point.

36. (Original) The computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 35, further comprising:

identifying at least one set of parameters to be associated with each policy template; and

transmitting the one set of parameters to be used in each associated policy template for enforcement to the enforcement point.

37. (Original) The computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 36, further comprising binding the parameters to each associated template.

38. (Original) The computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 35, further comprising implementing the policy associated with each policy template.

39. Canceled.

40. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 35, further comprising transmitting any policy templates to the enforcement point in response to the query from the enforcement point including any IDs assigned to the policy templates.

41. (Original) The computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 40, further comprising applying asynchronous, out-of-band communication to query the repository and to transmit any policy templates.

42. (Original) The computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 35, further comprising compressing each template before transmitting to the enforcement point.

43. (Original) The computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 35, further comprising forming each policy template in a structured document.

44. (Original) The computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 35, further comprising forming each policy template in a mark-up language.